

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 CCO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/LA:PTORREY:S/PRS:HARE

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S/S-O:PSAR S

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059449

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: PATTERSON'S KIDNAPPING

1. GENERAL GUIDANCE: OUR MOST IMPORTANT IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE IS THE SAFE RETURN OF VICE CONSUL PATTERSON. BECAUSE OF THE TERMS SET FORTH BY THE KIDNAPPERS, WE SHOULD REFRAIN FROM VOLUNTEERING ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE MATTER. THE DEPARTMENT, THE EMBASSY, AND CONGEN/ HERMOSILLO SHOULD ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES, AND ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS ONLY, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

2. IF THE EMBASSY IS ASKED TO CONFIRM A RUMOR THAT A USG OFFICIAL HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED, THE RESPONSE SHOULD BE QUOTE WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER UNQUOTE. WE SHOULD NOT BE IN THE POSITION OF CONFIRMING RUMORS.

3. ONCE IT BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT A USG OFFICIAL HAS IN FACT BEEN KIDNAPPED, AND IF HIS IDENTITY HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE PRESS, THE EMBASSY SHOULD STATE QUOTE WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT ONE OF OUR OFFICERS IS MISSING AND IS PRESUMED TO BE KIDNAPPED. IN THE INTEREST OF THE SAFETY OF THIS INDIVIDUAL WE CANNOT DISCUSS FURTHER HIS IDENTITY OR PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL
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DETAILS AT THIS TIME. UNQUOTE.

4. WHEN THE PRESS LEARNS THE IDENTITY OF THE VICTIM FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN THE USG, THE EMBASSY MAY CONFIRM THAT JOHN S. PATTERSON, VICE CONSUL AT THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL AT HERMOSILLO, SONORA, MEXICO, WAS APPARENTLY KIDNAPPED BY UNKNOWN PERSONS ON MARCH 22. BASIC BIOGRAPHIC DATA CAN BE PROVIDED. BIO DATA SENT SEPTTEL.

5. THE EMBASSY SHOULD RESPOND TO ALL SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONS BY STATING THAT OUR PRIMARY IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS THE SAFE RETURN OF VICE CONSUL PATTERSON. WE CANNOT, IN INTEREST OF HIS SAFETY AND WELL BEING PROVIDE ANY FURTHER DETAILS OR COMMENT IN ANY OTHER WAY AT THIS TIME ON HIS DISAPPEARANCE.

6. IF EMBASSY IS ASKED FOR USG POLICY ON KIDNAPPING AND TERRORISM, YOU SHOULD REFER SUCH A QUESTION TO DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON FOR DEFINITIVE STATEMENT. (FYI: DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN PLANS TO SAY QUOTE OUR POLICY IS WELL-KNOWN AND IS UNCHANGED UNQUOTE. IF ASKED TO RESTATE POLICY, SPOKESMAN WILL DO SO SUBSEQUENTLY, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. END FYI) RUSH

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